

# MEMO

**DATE:** March 28, 2007

**TO:** Regional Transit Task Force

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Status Report

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## BACKGROUND:

Over the past several months SCAG staff has been tasked with the following priority activities surrounding the Regional Transportation Plan:

- 1) Administrative Amendment (Gap Analysis) to the 2004 RTP
- 2) 2004 RTP Amendment
- 3) 2007 RTP Update

On March 1, 2007, SCAG's Regional Council, by way of Resolution No. 07-485-2, adopted the Final Administrative Amendment (Gap Analysis) to the 2004 RTP. Staff is confident that our comprehensive efforts in addressing the new planning requirements pursuant to SAFETEA-LU will ultimately result in assuring that the Region retains a federally compliant 2004 RTP. SCAG submitted the Final Administrative Amendment document for federal certification on March 8, 2007 to FHWA/FTA. Additional copies of the full document were also mailed to key regulatory agencies, including the California Transportation Commission, Caltrans, the Region's six counties and others on March 15, 2007. A formal Notice of Availability was distributed to many of the Region's key stakeholders also on March 15, 2007. Staff is currently awaiting certification of this document by the FHWA/FTA.

The most recent amendment to the 2004 RTP was completed in July 2006. The third 2004 RTP Amendment is currently in process. Although the primary impetus for amending the RTP this time around was the state's new \$4.5 billion Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA), the Amendment will include a number of transportation projects that are programmed to receive funding from various other sources. The projects to be included in the Amendment either do not exist in the current plan or require revisions to their scopes, schedules, or funding programs. Staff currently expects to have a draft ready for release for the required 30-day public review period by early May 2007, after the successful completion of which the final Amendment document will be presented to the Executive Committee for adoption in June 2007. This will allow us to submit the adopted Amendment to FHWA/FTA for approval prior to the July 1, 2007 SAFETEA-LU statutory deadline.

Staff has begun work on the 2007 RTP Update. A joint policy committee workshop was held on March 1, 2007 where SCAG hosted the first of several workshops related to the plan update. The focus of this first workshop was transportation finance. The second in this series is scheduled for April 5, 2007. The focus of the second workshop will be on air quality issues. As far as the plan update itself, staff is currently in the process to building consensus on the existing system gaps, deficiencies, or bottlenecks. This is namely being facilitated through dialogue via SCAG's Plans and Programs Technical Advisory Committee meetings in February and March. Staff is working toward having a draft 2007 RTP Update ready for public review by October 2007. Once the final review process has been successfully completed, we anticipate that the Regional Council will adopt the final 2007 RTP Update in December 2007/January 2008.